

PEOPLE -
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Professorship of Surgery Named for Dr. Hardy Hendren

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Dr. W. Hardy Hendren of King Caesar Road was honored in January with the establishment of a professorship of surgery at the Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital in his name.

Hendren, 82, is a pioneer in pediatric surgery with a career spanning 56 years. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Hendren founded the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1960. He then moved to Children's Hospital and served as chief of surgery from 1982 until 1998. His breakthroughs in correcting congenital defects in babies and children have won him many prestigious awards and memberships in medical societies worldwide. Hendren is now emeritus chief at Children's and is the Robert Gross Distinguished Professor of Surgery at Harvard. Gross was one of Hendren's teachers.

At the ceremony announcing the W. Hardy Hendren professorship, Harvard Medical School dean Jeffery Flier praised Hendren's accomplishments in training large numbers of both pediatric general surgeons and pediatric urologists during his long careers at MGH and Children's.

Children's Hospital president and CEO James Mandell described Hendren's distinguished career as "what happens when courage and passion meet creativity and determination." As a surgeon who operated on babies with various severe deformities, Hendren developed "novel and creative approaches to defects that really had no other answer, offering hope to children and parents who had no other hope," said Mandell.

Hendren expressed his



Hardy Hendren, MD and Tom Jaksic, MD, PhD.

ment of this new Harvard chair and thanked colleagues, friends, and donors to the medical school for making it happen. The first recipient of the professorship is Children's Hospital surgeon Dr. Tom Jaksic. Hendren said he was thrilled with the appointment of Dr. Jaksic, who has been at Children's for a decade. Hendren then spoke briefly of the special privilege accorded to surgeons of children, repairing difficult problems during infancy or childhood and then being able to see them thrive and become productive adults

years later. Three of those special patients were among the 120 people who attended the ceremony at Harvard Medical School.

In closing, Hendren thanked his wife of six decades: "Eleanor had the temerity to come along with me 61 years ago, when I had just gotten out of the Navy. I was just a premedical student at Dartmouth College hoping to get into medical school — with all those years of school and surgical residency ahead. Thanks for being there for all these years."

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